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ABSTRACT

"MIX" is an online publishing service and information exchange from the Educational Management Services Division of McGraw-Hill. Through computer conferencing and electronic mail, MIX provides access to a network of people across the country who are seeking ways to put computers to use to improve the quality of education. MIX is an information utility that quickly retrieves and stores facts and ideas compiled from a variety of sources--media and technology coordinators; science, business, math, and social studies teachers; educational associations; and McGraw-Hill itself. The information is available through computer conferences and electronic mail. A copy of the "Online Educator," the monthly newsletter provided with each MIX subscription, is included. (EW)

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MIX

The McGraw-Hill Information Exchange

Stephen M. Laliberte

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Introduction

MIX is an on-line electronic publishing service and information exchange from the Educational Management Services Division of McGraw-Hill. It offers up-to-the-minute information for education and media professionals and technology coordinators.

Through computer conferencing and electronic mail, MIX provides quick access to a network of people across the country who are seeking ways to put computers to use to improve the quality of education.

What MIX Does

MIX is an information utility that quickly retrieves and stores facts and ideas compiled from a variety of sources—media and technology coordinators; science, business, math, and social studies teachers; educational associations; and McGraw-Hill itself.

The information is available through computer conferences and electronic mail. A computer conference is similar to a regular conference, but it is more convenient. Papers and commentary are put on-line and can be downloaded from the system for review by subscribers. Comments can be entered into the conference either directly or by uploading into the system.

Electronic mail is similar to regular mail, except that you don't need a stamp. Just enter the message into the system, addressed to the recipient. When your correspondent comes on-line, he or she is informed of the message. You are informed when he or she receives it.

Education.Tech

Education.Tech is a group of on-line conferences serving the needs of technology, computer, and media educators. There are ongoing informational conferences about instructional and administrative software, computer hardware and peripherals, video, telecommunications, curriculum development, and more.

Student Information Exchange

Although students are not permitted on-line, those students from schools that subscribe to MIX can share information through their teachers. They can exchange electronic mail and participate in student-oriented conferences by having a teacher upload messages from a disk and download incoming messages.

MIX lets teachers make available to students an exciting medium for the exchange of ideas and information, and it helps students understand what "global awareness" is all about.

How MIX Began

At its inception, the McGraw-Hill Information Exchange began with a minicomputer, software that provided computer conferencing and electronic mail, access to a worldwide telecommunications network, and a research budget. The first computer conferencing and electronic mail service, the Educational Management Service Information Exchange (EMSIE), began in a limited test area to define the needs of the market.

As a result of the EMSIE pilot, some educational needs were defined: the need to serve the teacher professionally not only by providing information but by providing access to other educators and experts in all disciplines; the need to provide telecommunications activities that involve students in communication activities that bring the real world into the curriculum; and the need to offer unlimited use of the service for a fixed annual fee so the expense could be budgeted and thus approved by the administration.

The Future of MIX

EMSIE evolved to MIX, the McGraw-Hill Information Exchange. MIX, which will be available worldwide in the 1987–88 school year, has been selected as host for the National Business Education Association (NBEA) network and the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) network. The Minnesota Department of Education has selected MIX as its official network, and the state is funding toll-free telephone lines so all Minnesota educators will have equal access to the service.

The 1987–88 school year will be very exciting. McGraw-Hill News, an up-to-the-minute news service that we will archive for on-line research projects, will be added to MIX. A schedule of curriculum enhancement activities for language arts, math, science, and social studies has been added. The education technology service has been expanded to include a daily news service published by *Byte* magazine that covers new developments in microcomputers; a telecommunications forum; and a technical support conference for the Apple II and Macintosh computers and the AppleWorks software program.

The pages that follow contain a copy of *The Online Educator*, the monthly newsletter provided with each MIX subscription. The newsletter describes information services published on MIX, as well as some of the activities that take place on these services and how educators are using them.

The Online Educator

News from MIX • The McGraw-Hill Information Exchange for Educators • Vol 2 No 1 • September 1987

The extended classroom: An invitation to the world

By Bill Hay

...ters from California today?
...the seniors from Minnesota reply?
...Todd from Japan reply to the letter I sent him yesterday?
...background news articles on acid rain. May I get them after school?
...I get some information on Gorbachev for my next class?

...a few of the questions that greet me everyday since I gave the world instant access to my classroom through a modem and several telecommunications networks.

Last November, two other teachers and I set goals for out extended classroom using telecommunications:

- Electronically publish as much student work as possible
- Give students the skills to access electronic information
- Use telecommunications as a tool to integrate subject areas

In my pre-modem classroom, almost 100 percent of a student's work was shared only with the teacher, then thrown away. After we published student work in computer conferences we found that the quality and quantity of the work, as well as students' excitement and enthusiasm, increased.

In the *creative writing/rewriting* conference, we extended the classroom process of editing by having students send their rough drafts of creative writing to the other school to be edited. The result was a more refined editing process since the student could not ask clarification questions of the author.

Are you concerned about the possibility of nuclear war? If you could ask Abe Lincoln a question, what would it be? The student responses to these and other thought provoking questions were posted in the various conferences. Themes varied from peace issues, to the confederation of Canada, to drug use and abuse, to books-I-have-read. Most students appreciated expressing their views to the extended classroom.

"How old are you?" is the first question most students asked each other in the penpal conferences they participated in. Knowing a penpal's age seems to make a difference in the online penpal exchange although the advantage of having an electronic penpal is that there is no need to know each other's age or sex.

In one penpal exchange, between students in grades 8-10 from our school and those in grades 10-12 in another school, we had students guess each others' ages after two or three exchanges. Several students found this

(continued on bottom of page 4)

California's tech funding slashed

...Republican Gov. George Deukmejian ...e's $26 million budget for educa...logy in half and eliminated the $12 ...of the state's 17 Teacher Educa...uter Centers (TECCs) during the ...ly.

...campaign by TECC employees ...ors ensued.

...Senate bill that called for full res...TECC funding failed in the Assem... Means Committee. The TECC ...ded out in a compromise that ...0,000 to the Educational Technol... the full assembly and governor ...

...of the state's entire educational ...get means that funds for a state-...nications project must be cut ...

...ues continued on page 4)

A Letter from the Publisher...

Our plans for MIX during the 1987-88 school year are driven by our desire to provide information and activities that help you use computers to meet instructional needs. So here is what we are planning this year:

- EMSIE has become MIX-The McGraw-Hill Information Exchange. By giving us their name, McGraw-Hill Inc. is articulating their commitment to the network.
- MIX is easier to use now that we've added menus to it. You can still use commands but menus let you do things like collect all your mail and conference messages and ship them to your PC, with one easy keystroke.
- We have diskettes that simulate MIX offline. You can use this simulator to learn the system before you even dial the phone.
- We have increased our activities and projects, invited more guest experts and a few celebrities, and added moderators. See page 6 for a project schedule.
- You will find an up-to-the-minute financial news service called the McGraw-Hill World News which has access to McGraw-Hill's 37 magazines, has a world-wide network of reporters and uses six news services to gather up-to-the-minute financial information.
- Our goal is to provide software and data libraries in 1988 to let you do things like send and receive files for any microcomputer, and get databases in the appropriate format.
- Another 1988 goal will be to set up PRE MIX , a telecommunications program for the Apple II, IBM PC and compatibles that will make life much easier for you. PRE MIX will have an automatic log-in feature, automatic download feature, a built-in word processor for writing messages offline and the ability to download program and data files.

We have an exciting year planned. We believe that telecommunicatons is the next wave in improving the process of educating our children.

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EDITORIAL

A sense of community

" Being a moderator...means being part of a team that is at the heart of planning, designing, and implementing the overall function of the entire network."

"Dad, what's MIX"

How do you explain what an electronic community is to your children? I show them the equipment: an air conditioned room housing the sleek minicomputer, with huge disk drives, speedy line printers, a "modem pool" on a rack, rows of terminals, backup storage tapes and cables everywhere. It's a Star Wars type of room - impressive to kids, intimidating to most adults, and fascinating to those who are more curious than uncomfortable with their lack of knowledge.

I explain that there's lots of information stored inside, many hundreds of pages of information on many different subjects. I suddenly realize how boring that sounds. All that fancy, space age hardware just to store piles of information? Describing an electronic communications network in terms of its technology and information is like describing a town in terms of its buildings, streets, location, climate and demographics. Just the facts, Ma'm.

Instead, I explain that MIX is an electronic community, much like our town of Northfield in southeastern Minnesota. A community doesn't just "sit there," it is alive - a living, breathing organism that depends on various parts cooperating and contributing. I stop short of a full blown social studies course and show them what it's like to sign on, but I carry the analogy further in my own mind.

Part of what makes any community thrive is the willingness of a certain number of people to assume leadership roles in areas beyond their normal jobs.

School boards, city councils, planning commissions, park boards, PTAs, volunteer fire and rescue squads, sports associations, arts guilds, church boards and civic celebration committees are all made up of citizens who have stepped forward and indicated a willingness and interest in contributing to the community. MIX has come to life through the same kind of community leadership spirit, only here we call them moderators.

All our moderators are full time educators, either classroom teachers, computer coordinators, or a combination of the two. They have come to be moderators in much the same way someone gets involved in a community: some saw a need and stepped forward; others demonstrated their knowledge or a particular skill and willingly agreed to help out when asked.

Being a moderator on MIX involves more than being responsible for a particular conference. It means being part of a team that is at the heart of planning, designing and implementing the overall functioning of the entire network. The *moderators* conference is where most of this activity takes place. We brainstorm, argue, problem-solve, teach, critique, support, weep and celebrate, much like any other team of colleagues that works closely together to accomplish a mutual goal. As leader of this diverse and talented group, I struggle to keep up with the discussion of issues, the endless stream of ideas, the enthusiasm for creating an excellent service that will truly make a difference for education.

While we use the very technology that we sell, we have come to realize lately that there is a need to use the phone occasionally (GASP!) and even ...get together face to face (HORRORS!) All the moderators met at our offices in Minnesota for a weekend "blowout" June 12-14. Our main task was to plan the entire 1987-88 school year's activities on MIX, from classroom telecommunications activities to guest experts for teachers. This "schedule of network programming for the new season," to use the jargon of the television industry, can be found on pages 6-8 and will be produced and directed by your dedicated crew of electronic community planners and leaders: the moderators.

Stay tuned.

Griff Wigley
MIX Editor

Before he was MIX editor, Griff Wigley was a computer coordinator and social worker in the Faribault, MN public schools.

The Online Educator

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Personality and the faceless medium

Online Observer

By Joan Winsor

Online relationships - the intimate stranger

[Editor's note: The Online Observer is a monthly column of TOE and MIX. Pertinent comments to the online version follow the article.)

[illegible] months of navigating online, I continue to be amazed at how well I feel I know people "there" that I've never even seen. Some of them have even become important to me on a personal level without the ordinary sensory input (sight, hearing, etc.) that usually goes into our "knowledge" of another person.

To begin with, there is the whole idea of where "there" is. Both children and adults are perplexed by the concept of a "place" without the conventions of geography.

I have been acting as go-between for 3rd and 4th grade hearing-impared children in California who have been writing to hearing students in Minnesota.

[illegible] watching the "action" on the screen, and [illegible] their letters transmitted to the *student* [illegible], they wanted to know where the [illegible] was that the kids in Minnesota would [illegible] their letters. This was made a [illegible]ster in about a week when they [illegible]les on the screen.

[illegible]ain board in the hallway outside [illegible]m door now proclaims: WE [illegible] FRIENDS IN MINNESOTA! [illegible]their correspondence and replies [illegible]splayed.

[illegible] this subject with Gerri Sinclair, [illegible] as educational technology [illegible] given her considerable opportu- [illegible]nce these new "worlds," we [illegible] difficulty in explaining to [illegible] what it is like when we "go" to [illegible] other online world. Gerri said:

[illegible]ering conversation this morning [illegible]friend about "going to MIX" or [illegible]," and she said "you mean you really 'go' to your computer terminal don't you - or do you mean that you are having some sort of out-of-body experience?" I tried to tell her that it was not exactly an OBE, but there was a distinct sense of being somewhere else— and that the terrain was a shared space peopled by friends, acquaintances, and even strangers. She scratched her head, and said that she found it difficult to understand what I was talking about.

An out-of-body experience comes closer to describing it than a lot of other metaphors. Since the body is left behind, so are the stereotypes that go along with it. Without any idea of the appearance, accent, social status, or possibly even the sex of a person who is "speaking" online, what he or she says HAS to be taken at face value. It gives one access to the ideas without being distracted by the "packaging." Given comparable writing skills, people from all backgrounds, lifestyles, and physical conditions are essentially equal here.

Gerri offered an interesting example of this unique form of equity:

"I remember last summer being in a hotel with a friend I had met online...waiting to meet another mutual online friend that neither of us had met face to face. This guy turned out to be a teenager in full 'punk' regalia, with a purple spiked 'mohawk' hairstyle..."

When I mentioned my surprise at the strength of online relationships, in spite of the missing sensory input, Gerri talked about the phenomena of being able to pick online friends,who you've never seen, out of the crowd.

"As soon as we saw him walking down the street (among several other passers-by), we both turned to each other simultaneously and said — well there's X...." Gerri says of her "punk" friend.

Kitty Carton and I recently experienced this. During our recent spring break we met for the first time "face to face" in the airport and found that whatever it is besides "mere text" that gets passed along online is something very real - and, yes, even magical!

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observer/5.may #2, from mham

Packaging still applies to conferencing, only the wrapper is different. That may lead to our hearing from different people in an electronic conference than we would hear from in a conventional conference.

Someone who cannot type or cannot spell is apt to be "silent" in the electronic medium, but might be a well-regarded contributor in a face-to-face conference, where typing and spelling skills are beside the point.

Mike Ham

==========

observer/5.may #8, from lvaughn

Mike,
Your thoughts are interesting. As a Business Ed teacher, I emphasize the need to be accurate in spelling and grammar.
Recently, having interviewed candidates for a teaching position in our Business Deptartment at school, some of the people were not invited to a interview because they had spelling errors, or made errors in grammar on their letters of application. We teach the importance of accuracy in spelling and grammar. But I can understand how someone who felt they were weak in these areas would "hang" back and not express themselves! Maybe the use of good spelling checkers and grammar checkers will release them to express themselves?

Linda Vaughn

Joan Winsor has been a Special Education teacher in Palo Alto,CA for 25 years and became hooked on telecom as a participant in last year's ESTI

Graduate courses offered on MIX

MIX will be offering graduate level courses online this fall through the services of Connected Education, Inc. Academic credit will be granted by The New School for Social Research in New York. The courses, taught entrirely on MIX, are loosely structured to accomodate student schedules and to facilitate daily interaction between teacher and student. Each course lasts two months.

Tuition is $888 per course and includes all connect costs (with the exception of long distance calls to Tymnet if needed.) There is a registration fee of $60. Each course carries three New School non-matriculated credits. These credits can be applied either toward degrees at your own local institutions if they accept the transfer credits, or toward degree programs at The New School itself, including a MA in Media Studies.

Courses are conducted entirely in an electronic "computer conferencing" classroom environment where faculty and students enter comments and messages electonically in a continuing exchange throughout the course. Students can read and retrieve material entered by faculty and other students, as well as ask questions anytime, night or day. Students can communicate with faculty through private email. The result is a very stimulating intellectual enviornment, described by previous students as akin to "top-notch seminars" and superior to most of the in-person courses they have taken.

All students will have access to the online Connected Education library, containing hundreds of papers pertinent to the courses and to computer conferencing.

Fall 1987 online courses: October 1-November 31

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN EDUCATION
(Tom Hargadon)

A practical survey of new electronic communications media and their impact on the world of education today: computer networks, satellite communications, computer conferencing, classroom telecommunications projects, online data bases.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING
(Richard Dalton)

This course covers the new potential that low cost desktop publishing systems have, both for large and small school districts.

Other courses:
Computer Networks and Professional Writing
Telelaw: Legal Issues in Telecommunications
Electronic Publishing
Professional Management in the Information Age
The Languages of Documentary Film
Science Fiction and Media
Ethics in the Technological World

(Editor's note: join telecom/2.news or contact plevinson on MIX)

(FUNDS cont. from page 1)

from $3.2 million to $1.6 million. The proje would establish intensive telecommunicatio by putting a mainframe computer in the coun offices. The counties would subsidize access to and provide instructional applications.

According to Dr. Wendy Harris of California' Office of Educational Technology, they mig not be able to implement the state-wide telecom munications project at all with the remaining $1. million.

Ten TECC centers still remain open with the sup port of their county offices, and must be self-sup porting by next year.

Richard Johanson, Corporate Benefits Manage for Fairchild Semi-conductor Corp. has been in volved with the TECCs for four years as representative of industry or business (the TECC statute requires that someone from business or industry sit on each TECC's board of directors). He says Fairchild has put $100,000 into the TECC in an effort to carry out math and computer literacy.

"We're trying to affect changes in content curriculum and computer literacy education and the TECCs have been the most valuable and effective means of doing this," Johanson told MIX.

-by Amy Pampusch

(Editor's note: look for updates on California funding issues in the ca.info conference on MIX)

Telecom broadens scope of students and teachers (cont. from page 1)

difficult, but many students enjoyed the sense of mystery. A very bouncy exchange was established between a 14 year old male athlete and a lively 18 year old girl!

For students who have never seen the ocean, reading about it in books answers only some of the questions. However, being able to ask other students questions about their ocean environment gives additional information. Are you worried about shark attacks? What does the seashore look like in the morning? Is it calm? Have you ever seen a dolphin? What was it like? These are some of the questions asked and answered.

Background material for reports, essays and assignments that was not available through the school library was readily accessible via databases. Students would be present when I accessed the information and were given a word processing file containing the information. Because the access time was relatively short, the students tended to spend more time analyzing the information and adding their own thoughts rather than just fact copying.

Integration of subjects involves teaching concepts when and where they are needed rather than in a specific classroom with a particular teacher. Telecommunications is a tool that helps make the boundaries between subject areas disappear. Students were able to go to a math teacher to have their English assignment proofread, and a math teacher worked with students on peace issues and historical questions about Abraham Lincoln.

Since I was the "telecommunications expert" for a team of three teachers, I would see and edit all of the telecommunications material. As a result, the English teacher stepped in and helped in my math classes. When the students saw the teachers moving easily between subject areas, the students started integrating as well. Many of the activities on the networks are a logical extension of what is done in classrooms. Thus, it is a tool for process learning.

For further information, email me at MIX. My system name is whay.

William Hay teaches in a middle schools leadership program in Surrey, British Columbia. His program emphasizes the integration of curriculum.

STIX. . . STUDENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The place for kids to MIX!

Online Abe Lincoln brings insight to our future leaders

(Editor's note: Look for David Pierce on STIX as other living historical figures like Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt.)

"Let me be somebody else!" MIX's online Abraham Lincoln, David F. Pierce said when teacher/MIX moderator Jeff Holte took his computer away.

Their student telecommunications project was over.

"Let me be Gandhi!" Pierce pleaded, contending that he would play the part of any of his personal heroes if he could just keep the computer and continue being online.

Pierce, a computer illiterate who professes that his only knowledge of computers was that the word didn't start with a 'k.' He was not so impressed with telecommunications after his first attempt at logging on one Friday afternoon.

minutes of "humor for educators" in conference, Pierce found himself in a MIX black hole, (a.k.a. the online editor) with no idea how to get out. When in doubt, turn it off, he thought.

The computer sat on his kitchen table, dormant and black-screened, until the following Monday, when veteran MIX-user Holte talked him through his first successful online session. Pierce became enamored (of telecom that is, not Holte.)

Holte found this postmortem Lincoln through the Community Resource Pool (CRP) of Edina. CRP provides volunteer presenters for public and private schools in Edina, Richfield and Eden Prairie, MN.

"I have developed a heartfelt interest in several people, of which Lincoln is one," Pierce says as he runs his hand over a book from his 1894 limited-edition, 12-volume set of Lincoln's complete works.

Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Hubert H. Humphrey, Woodrow Wilson, Gandhi, Pierce's mother and father and Henry David Thoreau all share those things that David Pierce's heroes are made of: selflessness, truth and moral integrity, abhorrence of war and the desire to strive for peace.

At age 36, Pierce has completed his B.A. in Communication from American University in Washington D.C., and will have his M.A. in Speech Communication from the University of Minnesota in December.

Pierce has stood in front of classrooms of kids playing Blowin' in the Wind, spoken to kids about Martin Luther King Jr. and portrayed Abraham Lincoln on MIX. His motivation goes beyond just helping kids understand pacifism and its advocates.

"I'm a little bit of a ham," he admits.

–By Amy Pampusch

Amy Pampusch is a MIX assistant editor

beginning last May 20, Minnesota's primary school students electronically queried Minne- Perpich on MIX.

students tended to be curious about Gov. en, whether he had a pet, or what his favorite

igh and high school students delved into such and water clean-up and the governor's reason sota taxes. A group of students even collabo- him whether he thought President Reagan lying about the Iran-Contra arms scandal (the to answer that question.)

encouraged to get online after a pilot ques- with students and four Minnesota legisla- cessful.

ference was held near the end of the school only had the opportunity to answer ques- engage in online conversation with each tentative plans to have the governor online a time more conducive to that kind of inter-

Gov. Rudy Perpich (seated) is at the Capitol with (from left) teacher Jeff Holte and his students Jennifer Bergmann and Todd Maxwell.

STIX Projects1987-88

STIX (Student Information Exchange) lets students of all ages and from all parts of the world, share information, ideas, and data via the MIX network. STIX projects allow students from anywhere on the globe to meet in computer network conferences, accessed by their teachers. Shared writing, science data collection experiments, and conversations with nursing home residents are examples of our student to student projects. STIX also provides regional and national experts, politicians and celebrities for online dialogue. Since STIX is a flexible system moderated by educators like yourself, your ideas for a student telecommunications project are encouraged and welcomed. Contact Griff Wigley (gwigley) on the MIX network.

Stix.talk will function as a clearinghouse for all STIX projects. It is for educators who might want to find out about available student projects or who want to discuss educational issues that relate to particular subject areas. In the *stix.talk* conference there are listings of current and upcoming STIX events and a place for educators to discuss issues related to particular subject areas. The news topic will contain information related to current and upcoming STIX events and conferences. MODERATOR: GRIFF WIGLEY (gwigley).

MATH AND SCIENCE CONFERENCES

PROBLEM.SOLVING

A conference to discuss problem solving and house problem solving projects. One of these will be a compilation of student created problems that one "team" develops to be solved by another "team." Problem solving contests of various sorts will occur in this conference throughout the year. MODERATOR: PAUL GIGANTI (pgiganti).

ASTRONOMY

A conference featuring the staff at the Minneapolis Planetarium. They will be available throughout the year to answer teacher and student questions about astronomy. You may also participate in some online astronomy projects and discussions of special topics of interest held throughout the year. All grade levels are welcome and discussions will be geared to the appropriate level. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte)

"Wind is caused by a huge 'wind machine' that sits off an island in the Pacific Ocean." -Dr. Misconception

Don't let Dr. Misconception **twist** your students! Straighten the doctor out! Classrooms from all grade levels may present their correct explanations for science phenomena. Students will need to think about, discuss, and describe science phenomena to Dr.Misconception who is not easily convinced that he is wrong(and he always is!) . Students will think about scientific method, theories, fact vs. myth and will use logical reasoning. Different topics are presented throughout the year. MODERATOR: KEN EVANS (kevans).

WATER

We all need water. We use it for travel, play, hygiene, and for drinking. We even like to look at it. Yet there are serious water pollution and shortage prob... We will be conducting some online fresh-water and salt-water experim... utilizing the data students from all over the country send in. Instructional ... tivities will be designed for students and teachers. We will also have guest w... experts to answer questions and provide data analysis. The conference wil... ongoing throughout the year and experiments will occur periodically. MODE... TOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte).

PLANTS

Students from a variety of geographical areas throughout the country will gro... plants, measure and send growth data to STIX so other participants can use it for graphing, analysis, etc. We will have some online input from scientists to help evaluate results. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte).

WEATHER

An exciting conference exploring various aspects of weather. During the year there will be online weather experiments such as temperature collection, etc. We will also have weather experts online to discuss questions your students have concerning the whole area of meteorology. They may also ask some interesting questions of your students. You may also search past weather conversations with weather experts. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte).

SCIENTIST

Scientists from the past, present and future will be online to answer questions. Galileo, Aristotle and Copernicus will visit the conference and students will have the opportunity to ask them questions to learn more about them and their laws, theories, and discoveries . Real scientists from the present will be invited online to discuss their work with insect control, or a wildlife management scientist might discuss a threatened species of animal, and what steps need to be taken to preserve the species. A future scientist may visit and talk about the future of science. Topics may include health care techniques, recycling of critical materials, enviromental issues, the "ozone" threat, death stars and others. MODERATOR: KEN EVANS
(kevans).

EXPLORE.INVENT

In this conference classrooms will be able to discuss issues with people such as Thomas Edison, Leonardo da Vinci and present day explorers and inventors. Questions as to why their adventures and inventions were significant and the impact of their lives and work on society will be addressed. There will be some challenges, in the form of a contest, from our guests to your classes. Look for the Ultimate Exploration Contest, where students from around the country submit entries to be judged by our online guests. MODERATOR: KEN EVANS (kevans).

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FLATEARTH

...the earth is flat. And I can prove it! -Captain Flathead.

...Flathead will be online in the fall and spring to represent the Flat Earth ... He will counter arguments proposed by classrooms of students. The ... will provide arguments for the belief that the earth is indeed ... MODERATOR: KEN EVANS (kevans).

LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCES

...DENT. BOOKS

...rooms across America focus on their reasons for favoring a particular piece ...erature. Individual students will write evaluations of those books they have ... Each class will then select a representative piece of literature to be ...nated. These will be compiled into a national database of classroom-...ted pieces of literature that reflect the geographic, economic and lifestyle ...es of students from all parts of this nation. Follow-up classroom activities ...using literature databases in the classroom will evolve from this project. They ... incorporate the classroom use of thinking skills in the management of this ...ting information. MODERATOR: STEVEN PINNEY (spinney).

ROUND.ROBIN

...a team of classrooms across the nation as they cooperatively agree on the ...ments of an exciting adventure. Once a rotation schedule is agreed on, each ...room has ample time (using the writing process) to provide their chapter ...the continuing saga. Imagine how exciting it will be to watch the perspective ...students in parts of the nation quite different than your own influence the ...acter development in a shared piece of written literature. Enhance your ...ing project by joining this exciting use of telecommunication in the class-... MODERATOR: STEVEN PINNEY (spinney).

...PALS

...broaden your students' horizons? Curious about how people in distant ... live and feel? Then the *penpals* conference is the place for you. In *penpals* ... a database of other teachers interested in writing exchanges, tips and ... on how to organize a successful exchange, monthly suggestions for ... and postings of student project opportunities on MIX. Penpals ... to discuss, improve, and critique student writing exchanges at ... Join *penpals* and help your students connect with the world. ...ETER HUTCHER (phutcher).

...

...with Logo will exchange penpal letters with students from ... will include personal symbols designed with Logo software. ...the symbols will be transmitted in this conference, along with ...students will get a chance to see how others are working with ...to learn more about each other. MODERATOR: ARDYCE ...).

...

...debate teams follow the formal rules of appropriate debate ...a teacher-specified topic. One team starts off with the debate ... waits for its opportunity to respond. Once the debate begins, ...his side of the argument off-line and upload... to MIX. ... the nation watch the dynamic excitement of this provocative ...an opportunity to discuss its merits as well as their reactions ...sion of the debate in a public forum topic. MODERATOR: ...spinney).

...LE

...ed photojournal "A Day in the Life of America" contains the photos of several dozen photographers that were taken across America within one 24 hour period. In a similar effort, students in classrooms from all corners of the United States will offer their perspectives. One day this Fall students across the country will write descriptive articles about local people, events or issues sharing the diversity of our many locales and lifestyles. To capture the moment all articles will be written on one special day and be revised during the remainder of that week. Selections will then be sent to MIX where a published document of teacher selected writings will be sent to all participating schools. MODERATOR: STEVEN PINNEY (spinney).

WRITERS. ASSIST

Students are no longer limited to the person sitting behind them in the revision of their writing projects. MIX now offers the Writer's Assistance Network. Classrooms across America are now networked into cooperative editing teams helping each other as they build writing projects to the publishing stage. Classrooms post a "Help Wanted" ad on MIX and connect with another school to begin cooperative editing functions for each other's writing as it moves from prewriting to roughdraft and into revision. Expand your writing audience to other students around the nation. Offer each of your writers his/her own personal editing team. Support your writing projects with The Writer's Assistance Network. MODERATOR: STEVEN PINNEY (spinney).

SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCES

DECISION

In *decision* we will help build critical thinking and decision-making skills by examining the consequences of decisions made in a series of simulated situations. The "Decisions, Decisions" series by Tom Snyder Productions will serve as the focus for this conference. Each program in this series examines an issue such as immigration, urbanization, or media ethics and we'll extend that using online discussions and comparisons of the processes and experiences of participants. Join us in *decision* for an exciting exploration of students' decision making processes. MODERATOR: PETER HUTCHER (phutcher).

POLITICS

Ever wish you could ask a senator or representative why they voted a certain way on a particular bill? Been curious to know whether your governor had a pet or likes animals? Through *politics* students have the chance to pose questions of all sorts to a variety of local and national political figures. Each will be online for two to three weeks, available to answer student questions of all kinds. A schedule of who will be on, and when, will be available soon and will be posted in the *politics* conference. MODERATOR: JON GORDON (jgordon).

SURVEYS

Geographically distant classes team up in pairs to create, compile, analyze and report the results of surveys. Students must use word processing, database, spreadsheet and graphing application software to complete the task. The student-created survey forms, the raw data and the written reports are posted in a common place online so that other classes may use the forms, continually add to the data and compare conclusions. Survey results are then made public via letters to the editor of local newspapers, articles in school newspapers and district newsletters, letters to local public officials, etc. MODERATOR: PAUL GIGANTI (pgiganti).

...S News

Student Press International is the Associated Press for the under-18 crowd: a place for student writers from junior high schools and high schools around the country to share their news stories and information. Stories pertinent to the student population as a whole will be put "on the wire" via MIX for other subscribing schools to access for publication or information. Once enough online material is generated, regional STIX newspapers will be put out by a core of student editors. Look for online versions of established student publications as well. MODERATOR: AMY PAMPUSCH (apampusch).

VACATION

Practice your map reading skills as you plan to take an electronic vacation in cooperation with another class in an unknown, remote location! Research and write travelogues, historical guides, profiles of your community to share with other classes. Use your word processing skills to "publish" brochures to be sent to your "guests." Learn about other parts of the world as you take a guided tour provided by a host class. If "traveling" to "visit" another school, try to guess your final destination before your "arrival" by using daily "clues" provided by your "hosts." MODERATOR: JOAN WINSOR (jwinsor).

VIDEO

Student video productions are becoming quite common. The *video* conference is a place to discuss tips and guidelines for effective use of video, the ITV series, and related video technologies such as CD-ROM, laserdisks, and digitizers. It will also be the place to coordinate the sharing of video productions done by students. A topic will be reserved to house a listing of student-produced videos that people would be willing to share with others. These video productions can range from "tours" of your school building and community to videos produced relating to existing curriculum areas. MODERATORS: JEFF HOLTE (jholte) and PETER HUTCHER (phutcher).

OTHER.SIDE

"The Other Side" software is an excellent tool for learning about conflict resolution. In the MIX version, two games will be played simultaneously between students in different parts of the US, Canada and perhaps Australia. Email messages will be used to communicate the moves. There is a requirement that the schools have a copy of the program and are prepared to send regular daily messages. Time frame: 4 to 6 weeks per game. Time commiment: 5 to 10 minutes per day plus 1 to 2 minutes of MIX time per day during the game. Grade level: Intermediate, Middle, Secondary. MODERATOR: WILLIAM HAY (whay).

EXTRA.EXTRA

As major national and global events occur, a set of activities involving experts and news media accounts of the event will be available within a short time for students to participate in that are designed to enhance their involvement and understanding.

1. Newswire accounts of the event will be available for downloading along with a brief set of questions designed to assure fundamental knowledge of the important information.

2. Anytime an important national global event occurs, politicians, government officials, professors from colleges and other key people who are knowledgeable about the situation will be scheduled for a limited online appearance. They will not only post their particular views, but more importantly, interact with students directly. Teachers select questions and comments generated by students and post them online. When the visiting expert responds, the students are expected to respond back so that true interaction takes place and students are challenged to defend their position.

3. Newspaper coverage of certain events can dramatically vary from state to state and especially country to country. Participating classes will post the headlines used by their local newspapers so that comparisons can be made. Student analyses, either individually or cooperatively written, are then posted online for others to read and compare. In cases where students think that the newspaper's headlines were inaccurate or misleading, letters to the editor will be written, and when possible, sent electronically via MIX or other electronic services.

4. Certain events require decisions from politicians, government officials, managers of corporations or administrators of non-profit organizations. Students need to be shown that citizen expression of opinions can often impact these decisions. Each event selected will have a definite time period in which online activities will occur. Generally, a 5 to 6 week committment will be required if a teacher wishes to have a class participate in all activities. MODERATORS: JON GORDON (jgordon) and LYNN SCHRUM (lschrum).

ZOO

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley, Minnesota will be online to talk with teachers and students. Zoo personnel will

- Provide information about zoo activities.
- Provide access to the Minnesota Zoo's online animal data base.
- Have interactive discussions with zoo staff with periodic topics of interest and ongoing discussions.
- Provide teaching materials, current articles, and discussion with teachers related to zoos. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte).

LOCAL.STUDIES

In this conference a variety of projects will occur. Basically, any project related to your own local community may take place here. Besides the projects listed below you may have a project that your class would like to try.

• Local geography:
A collection of physical, historical, economic, and cultural features of your community. These can be collected and shared with others on MIX.

• Local historical events:
A collection of significant historical events that took place in your community. Students write as reporters who were there. These can be collected and shared with other schools.

• Local historical figures:
A collection of significant historical events that took place in your community. These can be collected and shared with other schools.

• Cemetary data:
Collect data from a local cemetary to analyze life span, population patterns, and other interesting information that can be obtained from gathering such data. Student gathered information from other cemetaries will be available to make comparisons between communities using a data base. Projects may be supplimented by the creation of video tapes or photographs which may be shared with other schools. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte).

SENIOR.CITIZEN

Knarly: The state of not mixing
Radical or rad: Far out, cool
-6th Grade Students
Cats meow: upbeat
Land sakes: surprise
Hoppin jimminy-:amazing
-Chateau Healthcare Center residents

Nursing homes from various places will be online to match up with classrooms of students of all ages. Residents of these nursing homes and students can share electronic mail messages and discuss topics of interest. Collections of students' and residents' favorite sayings and expressions, real-life stories from both generations, and other surveys and activities will make this a meaningful experience for students. MODERATOR: JEFF HOLTE (jholte)

INTERNATIONAL

Quite a few international projects will be occuring on MIX this year. Australian schools will be online along with a variety of others. This conference is designed to be a clearing house for all international projects on MIX. If you are interested in having your class conduct a project with a class from another country, or you want to know about life in another country that is participating in MIX, this is the place to go. The moderators can tell you about various international projects found on the network. We can also discuss appropriate issues related to international education such as global education. MODERATORS: JEFF HOLTE (jholte) and PETER HUTCHER (phutcher).

YOUR PROJECT

Designed by you, this project utilizes your curriculum specialty as well as your ingenuity. Contact Griff Wigley (gwigley) if you wish to create your own STIX project.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

STIX Project Calendar 1987-88

All Stix conferences are listed below. Conferences are yearlong except those marked with *. Check the chart below for the time frame of those conferences.

MATH/SCIENCE

Plant *
Twisted.Science
Explore.Invent *
Scientist *
Flat.Earth *
Zoo *
ProblemSolving
Weather

SOCIAL STUDIES

Water
Extra.Extra
Decision
Surveys
Local.Studies
Politics
Living.History *
Sayings
Student.Press

LANGUAGE ARTS

Vacation
Logo.Penpals
Student.Books
Senior.Citizen
International
Debate
Penpals
Video
Round.Robin
Time.Capsule *
Writers.Assist

SEPTEMBER

Scientist: Ask a Scientist
Living.History: Constitutional figures

OCTOBER

Zoo: Reptiles
Scientist: Ask a scientist
Flat.earth: Session 1
Plant: Project # 2
Living.History: Constitutional figures
Explore.Invent: Tom Edison

NOVEMBER

Explore.Invent: Real Explorer
Zoo: Animal Care
Scientist: Charles Darwin
Living.History: Industrial Revolution.
Plant: Project #2
Time.Capsule: Writing Project

DECEMBER

Scientist: Charles Darwin

JANUARY

Zoo: Big Cats
Scientist: Real scientist
Explore.Invent: L. da Vinci
Living.History: Civil Rights

FEBRUARY

Zoo: Vanishing wildlife
Scientist: Aristotle, Galileo, Copernicus
Explore.Invent: Real inventor
Living.History: Presidents

MARCH

Zoo: Animal training
Scientist: Aristotle, Galileo, Copernicus
Flat.Earth: Session 2
Explore.Invent: Real explorer
Living.History: Average person

APRIL

Zoo: Zoo keeping career
Scientist: Albert Einstein
Flat.Earth: Session 2
Plant: Project #2
Explore.Invent: to be announced
Living.History: Flight

MAY

Scientist: Future scientist
Plant: Project #3
Explore.Invent: To be announced

MIX SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hosts

Each subscriber is now offered a "host" who, through email, provides whatever assistance you might need in order to become familiar with the environment. Hosts answer questions, explain system commands, refer newcomers to conferences, and introduce them to others already online. offer hosts retroactively to anyone who feels they would benefit from some personalized help. To "get hosted" send an email message to Joan (jwinsor) or Kitty Carton (kcarton) and keep an eye on your MIX mailbox for your first message.

MIX.Match

A database of MIX subscribers designed to let you search for those subscribers who have specific interests or professional needs, similar jobs, co specialties or classes compatible with yours who are interested in online projects . Listing in the database is optional. If you are interested ple the following information to Kitty Carton (kcarton) or Joan Winsor (jwinsor):**Name, username, position, school/organization, work address, profe areas of interest, other interests, whether you are interested in online projects with your students, and the curriculum area interests of projects.** The material you submit can be changed or withdrawn at any time by contacting your host via MIX email .

Education.tech

A group of conferences designed for the educator interested in technology including:

- ***TechJeader:*** Online workshops about various aspects of educational technology. Each month there will be a theme on the integration of tech into a particular area of the curriculum, while another theme will focus on a technology-related issue or problem facing educators. Guest experts invited to present their thoughts during each of these workshops and interact with MIX subscribers. Themes include: Computer Science, Education, Math, Guidance and counseling, Music/Art, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Monthly themes focus on educational tech issues like computer equity, measuring the impact of technology, teacher training issues (inservice, certification, preservice), instructional manag systems (testing, mastery management) student information systems (scheduling records, attendance), videotape technology, other video tech (CD Rom, interactive two-way) being a technology/computer coordinator, and technology and the skills of the future.
- ***Telecom and tele.library:*** Monthly guests in the area of educational telecommunication appear online in the telecom conference. Guests this past were telecommunication experts Stan Silverman of the New York Institute of Technology and John Southworth from the University of Hawaii. *Tele.l* contains the full text of readings and articles on telecommunication. Watch for announcements of other *telecom* guests appearing monthly throughout the year.
- ***Logo:*** Keep in touch with new developments in Logo. This conference provides Logo classroom projects for you and your students. It also answers your questions about Logo, offers a place for people interested in Logo to communicate with each other, and provides a forum for discussion of Logo and all issues involved with its implementation.
- ***Microbytes:*** Get all the fast breaking computer industry news twice weekly. Ported from another McGraw-Hill network called BIX (Byte Information Exchange).
- ***Apple.2 and Macintosh:*** Moderated by Paul Musogades from Apple Computer, these conferences cover news, software, hardware, peripherals and telecommunications specific to the Apple II and Macintosh line of personal computers.
- ***Appleworks:*** Appleworks software tips, questions, macros, lessons and discussion.
- ***Netweaver:*** Newsletter of the Electronic Networking Association(ENA), an organization of computer conferencing professionals. Their monthly newsletter is called The Netweaver and is created and distributed electronically nationwide.

Professional

- MIX is evolving into more than a network for educational technology. The professional group of conferences is our name for the online activities that can enhance you professionally and personally. During the 1987-88 school year we plan to have several symposiums on important developments in education. **Fall: Structual reform, Winter: Writing across the curriculum, Spring: Cooperative learning**. Experts in these fields will be available online to interact with you. More details will be available in October.
- For MIX members to gather , relax, and socialize there's the *lounge* conference. Join in or initiate conversations on anything that's on your mind, education related or not. As this global online educational community called MIX evolves, we need a place to meet casually as peers, interested in education and interested in each other. So take your time to check out the "atmosphere." If and when you feel ready to make an appearance, rest assured you'll be warmly welcomed.
- MIX participants can gather together to seek and lend support to each other in the support.grp conference on MIX. Both personal and professional are discussed. Any MIX subscriber may request to join. Send email to Linda Vaughn (lvaughn).

State Groups

The Minnesota Department of Education has adopted MIX as the educational telecommunications network for the state. MDE.Net will be an important communication vehicle between the department and Minnesota educators. The October issue of The Online Educator will contain full details. California educational technology news, calendars, issues and rumors are posted and discussed in the *ca.info* conference.

National Associations

Conferences devoted to the needs of particular educational associations will become increasingly popular in the upcoming year. Watch for announcements on conferences sponsored by the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) and the National Business Education Association (NBEA).

Ask.MIX

Got a question and not sure where to ask it, let alone where to find the answer? Just *ask.mix*. Anything about anything to do with MIX. When? Where? How? Why? You may find us asking you questions in *ask.mix* as well. This is part of our customer support process in which we actively solicit your input.

California institutes let teachers see educational benefits of technology

...ation is watching California as it takes ...steps toward realizing its dream of inte... technology into the curriculum.

...years ago the Educational Technology ...ory Committee helped fund the develop... of manuals and materials to accomplish this ...k. Known as the TIC (Technology in the Cur...culum) materials, these were distributed to every school in the state. The materials consisted of cross-referenced books detailing software and instructional television programs and where they fit into the state frameworks of curriculum.

At the time these materials were being finished, a new problem arose. What exactly would the schools do with these wonderful things? A need for some knowledgeable teachers who could train others was identified. At this point the state moved quite rapidly and devised a plan to train 600 teachers in an innovative and intensive manner.

...summer of 1986 there were four technol... training institutes: Elementary, Math Sci... Language Arts, and History-Social Studies. ...e there were 200 teachers living in ... receiving all-day training.

...emphasized curriculum, effective ... technology throughout the curriculum, and the planning and delivery of effective inservice training. The goal was to have these educators return to their areas, develop model classrooms using technology and provide inservice instruction to others.

California is the first and only state to run institutes like this and most people feel these institutes are extremely successful. Teams from all over the state have been presenting to their colleagues and have established themselves as future leaders in educational technology.

Two of the institutes, Math Science (MSTI) and Elementary (ESTTI), gave modems to all participants. With the modems came 10 hours of time on MIX. Participants also got a stipend that they could receive in the form of a computer, other hardware or money.

This summer the Elementary institute was held again at San Bernardino, Math/Science at Berkeley and a combination of History-Social Science and Language Arts was held at Irvine. They will continue to be intensive, exciting and enriching experiences for the participants and a great benefit to the state.

-By Lynne Schrum

Lynne Schrum is a resource specialist and was a 1986 ESTTI associate

Technology association explores new medium

We are living in a unique age: a time of unprecedented change brought about by technology. How do people apply technology, how does it affect their everyday lives, and what should be taught about technology to members of our society?

The TechnologyLink on MIX created by the International TechnologyEducation Association (ITEA) addresses these questions and more.

Through technology we apply our knowledge of math and science to increase our potential, solve practical problems and ultimately modify our world and make it more enjoyable.

In itself, technology is rigid and inhuman. It offers no solutions. Managed, technology is flexible. Understood, it can be adapted and changed as needed, or wanted.

As part of the school curriculum, technology education teaches students to understand, use, and control technology's affects on people, the environment and society. Students learn how to adjust to change, to deal with forces that influence their future, and to participate in controlling their future.

To help students develop insights into the application of technological concepts, processes and systems and to help prepare them to be active participants in controlling their future, the ITEA is using the TechnologyLink group on MIX. It will provide resources that will assist teachers in preparing students to be productive citizens in the 21st century.

TechnologyLink is for professionals interested in providing comprehensive, action-based educational programs concerned with technology, its evolution, utilization and significance. It's also for those involved with industry; its organization, personnel, systems, techniques, resources and products and its social/cultural impact on society.

Given the reality of today's world, technology education is the new basic.

-By George Willcox

George Willcox is state supervisor, Technology Education Service, Virginia Dept of Education

...CC proposing telecom access rate hike

...he Federal Communications ...(FCC) proposed that companies ...no longer be exempt from paying ...ess charges as of January 1, 1988. ...cost is expected to be passed on to ...cations networks and their ...

...mates the added access charge ...to an additional 9 cents per ...h user, but the commission ...present exemptions mean that ...sidential telephone users are ...telecommunications networks. ...ly rents private telephone lines.

This month, the FCC will be "testing the waters" by discussing the access charge issue. A letter writing campaign has been generated by MIX subscribers and by other networks as well.

Deadline for comments is September 15 and the FCC is required to respond to those comments by October 15.

(Editor's note: Watch the MIX lounge and ca.info conferences for updates on the FCC proposal.)

Stephen M. Laliberte

Stephen M. Laliberte is director of new product development for Educational Management Services, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc. He is responsible for developing products that are delivered electronically in forms such as computer conferencing, full-text retrieval, and compact digital ROM. The goal is to make materials from McGraw-Hill—including books, tests, magazines, and data bases—available to educators in an electronic format.

Currently Mr. Laliberte publishes the McGraw-Hill Information Exchange (MIX), an information service dedicated to serving the needs of educators. He is the author of the McGraw-Hill Interactive Authoring System, a software program that allows educators to create computer-aided instruction without using a programming language.